illegal trade in wild life, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been initiated. This scheme provides for equal sharing of the non-recurring cost between the Central and State Government. Rs. 3.00 crores is the VII Plan outlay under this Scheme.

(vi) Patrol guards are being suitably armed and deployed.

(vii) The Central Wildlife Division is being strengthened.

(viii) The Wild life (Protection) Amendment Act, 1986 has laid down that dealers in imported ivory for trade and manufacture will also require a licence. No such licences will be given for Indian ivory.

(ix) Import and re-export of articles made from ivory of African origin is regulated as per the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

News-item captioned "Presidents' Medal for Controversial U.P. Official"

724. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the "Times of India" of the 13th December, 1986 captioned "President's Medal for controversial U.P. Official" if so, what are the details thereof?

(b) whether any inquiry has been ordered in this regard; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The Police Medal for meritorious service was awarded on the occasion of Republic Day, 1984, after the Government of U.P. had certified the integrity of Shri Lakshmi Saroop Saxena and had also certified that no inquiry was pending against him.

The Government has seen the news-item. As the matter primarily concerns the Government of U.P., it has been brought to their notice for appropriate action.

EPF Investment Policy

725. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy has suggested to Government to revise Employees' Provident Fund investment policy so that subscribers may derive benefit of the high interest rates;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy have in their report on appraisal of provident fund and allied schemes recommended *inter-alia* that the existing pattern of investment for the provident fund may be revised and the organisation may be permitted to invest